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Note on Dr. Royston-Pigott's Starlit Transit Eye-piece.

By Capt. Wm. Noble.

Having been favoured, through the kindness of Dr. Royston-Pigott, with one of the Starlit Transit Eye-pieces, described by him before our March meeting, I have thought that a short Note on the result of the experiments which I have, so far, been able to make with it, may not be wholly destitute of interest.

Briefly then, I may say that I find that the mean transit of a star over the five lines ruled upon the silvered glass surface, differs some 0.3 or 0.4 second from that of its passage over (or through) the central line; and, inasmuch as the intervals between any two adjacent pairs of lines may be held to be mathematically equal, this affords a very fair indication of the degree of accuracy attainable with Dr. Royston-Pigott's most ingenious contrivance.

With my 4.2-inch Equatoreal of 61 inches focal length, the eye-piece I have gives a measured power of exactly 84.

A noticeable effect is produced by the passage of a "ghost" of every object observed, in a diametrically opposite direction, across the field.

*Forest Lodge, Maresfield, Sussex,
1876, May 11.*

Note on Coggia's Comet (III. 1874).

By J. Dreyer, Esq.

The accompanying sketches of the great Comet of 1874 were made by me while working at the Copenhagen Observatory with the refractor of 11-inches aperture. As the attention was principally directed to micrometrical observations, exact sketches of the head of the Comet were only made on three nights, June 20, July 13 and 16. I have thought they might be of some interest to the Fellows of the Society as a supplement to the drawings published in the March number of the *Monthly Notices*.

On the 20th June the nucleus was equal to a star of the fifth magnitude and the light in front of it was like the top of a fountain.

On the 13th July the Comet appeared as represented in the second sketch. The following branch was brighter than the preceding one. Two luminous tails streamed out from the foremost part of the coma, turning back left and right. They were decidedly brighter than the region round the nucleus. A faint parabolic arc of light was seen in front of these tails. The

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nucleus was pretty sharply defined and formed the centre of a small sector of light, which faded away gradually. The sketch was taken at 11^h M.T.

On the 16th July the Comet was so near the horizon, that faint details could not be seen. The drawing was made at 10^h 20^m M.T. The two tails were seen again, but now streaming out directly from the nucleus. The preceding one could be traced out to the periphery of the parabolic coma, while the following one was shorter and faded away following.



COGGIA'S COMET (III. 1874).

As seen with the 11-in. Refractor at Copenhagen.

The Earl of Rosse's Observatory,
1876, May.

Note on the Conjunction of Venus and λ Geminorum on 1876,
August 17-18. By E. Dunkin, Esq.

Dr. Krüger, of Helsingfors, has drawn the attention of the Astronomer Royal to a very close approach of *Venus* to the star λ *Geminorum* on the morning of August 18 next, and he remarks that an opportunity will thus be afforded at the Northern and Southern observatories for making simultaneous micrometrical-measures of the distance between the planet and the star, the latter being, according to the *Uranometria Nova* of Argelander, of the 4-3 magnitude, and according to Heis, of the fourth magnitude. As a series of measures made in both hemispheres would be of some importance, it may be useful, for the convenience of observers, to insert in the *Monthly Notices* the tabular R.A. and N.P.D. of *Venus* for short intervals during the morning of August 18, and also the apparent place of λ *Geminorum* for the same day, deduced from the *Greenwich Seven-Year Catalogue* for 1864. Viewing this interesting conjunction as one of more than usual value, it is hoped that attempts will be made on this side the Atlantic to secure some micrometrical-measures, although the nearest approach occurs in Europe several hours after sunrise; but the star being of a fair magnitude, it is possible that at, or slightly before that time, it may be observable with some of our large telescopes. In North and South America, where the